

MINUTES

**SESTERCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS
6:00 p.m.**

Committee members present: Ashley Brown, Tracy Weed, Argy Nestor, Keith Siegel, Sonja Burns, Martha Johnston-Nash (Select Board Rep), Ruth Ann Senff-Wiemer

Others present: Norma Hunt, Cindy Wright, Pat Hood, Jesse Thompson, and others

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Argy Nestor.
- 2. Approve February 19, 2024 minutes:**

Motion by: Keith Siegel
2nd by: Tracy Weed
5-0

- 3. Union Elementary School – *Mark Your Calendars:***
HISTORICAL MUSICAL, TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1:30 P.M.
CONTRA DANCE, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 6:00 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

Argy pointed out the above dates. She said the community is invited to the musical as well as the school community. Every student will take part. Hopefully it will be recorded to share at a later date. Again everyone in the community is invited to the contra dance, as well as students in grades pre-K through 6 who have all learned contra dancing.

- 4. Traditional Arts:**

Argy said Junia has resigned from her role coordinating with Norma. Fortunately Cindy Wright stepped up and is applying to join the Sestercentennial Committee.

Norma Hunt said she updated the google form.

Martha and Ruth Ann arrived.

Norma said she got hold of a lady through the Common Ground Fair to do natural dying. The lady wanted to know if she could sell her yarn as she's doing the demo. Argy said the focus is sharing, demonstrating, and perhaps having people try stuff; if they have products to sell, they can certainly be there on their table. Argy reminded there would be some tables. Norma said some would bring their own.

Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – March 18, 2024

Argy said we have a couple of tatter possibilities. She added Traditional Arts is scheduled 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with set up no later than 8:00 a.m. Artists/artisans will need to be close to the Common to unload their cars and set up, then they're going to have to move their vehicles so should plan for that as well. Tracy said a designated parking area will be figured out, and if anybody needs a table supplied let her know. Argy said it may be a hot day, so they can bring pop ups. She reminded all info goes in the google docs.

Argy said the spinners will be separate from the 10 tables, and something else needed more space that may be separate – in the google docs. She also said artists/artisans can come in after 3:00 p.m. and pick their stuff up.

Argy said the parade is scheduled 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.-ish, so if they need a third Traditional Arts volunteer and know someone who could help, reach out to them and let the committee know. Argy reiterated the town has said anyone volunteering must fill out an insurance form in order to be covered if something happens to them.

Tracy asked Pat Hood (Parks and Rec Chair) about volunteer forms for Little League. He outlined the process and said they have their own insurance.

Argy reported that the film footage is in Italy with Scott who's there for several weeks. He has all the audio clips. About 40 people have been interviewed. Sonja and Petrea helped. We have photographs of the people as well. She added we also have three standalone films of the three storytelling sessions (one in North Union, two at Vose Library), and hopefully we'll have those available.

5. Marketing:

Argy said on February 18 they met with John Jensen who was great. They came up with a pretty extensive plan and but still don't anyone to take the lead.

She said a few things are still unknowns, such as which signs to go with. Another is the price of the posters which was on Martha's list; John suggested we sell them framed or unframed. She added they had talked about bombarding the community with them.

Argy also said she said Keith did a design with dates and the logo to put on websites. Keith will add a QR code that goes to the historical society, where the schedule will be then. Tracy said the current QR code goes to our Facebook page. Martha said what you're looking for is one sided posters, multicolored, with logo, etc. Tracy said like the Lobster Festival. Argy said John recommended 12"x18." Martha will get prices.

After discussion on whether to include dates or not vis a vis the posters being collectibles, all agreed to have posters with the logo and dates. Argy clarified those posters will be sold. With the same poster, we'll put the QR code in the corner and put them in every store from here to Rockland and back. All concurred.

Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – March 18, 2024

Argy summarized that Keith will create the QR that leads to the historical society website. Martha will get a price for the poster.

Argy said we still need somebody to take the costs on the paper and figure out what is the best price for the road signs and for the banners, so we can decide where to have them printed.

Ruth Ann said she touched base with Ashley.

Argy said this is about hat making as well as bird stuffies. Ruth Ann said once she hears from Rachel re: pattern, she will post it on the website looking for people. Keith said she told him she does have a pattern and could probably make a few prototypes. Re: price, Ruth Ann said they could decide after the prototypes and would like them as affordable as possible for kids. Ashley brought up where to sell them. Argy said the unicyclists will each get one which Ruth Ann had suggested.

6. Sponsorships:

Argy said sponsorships are coming in pretty well. Committee members have a sheet. Tidewater has given us \$3,500 of which \$2,500 is earmarked for the bandstand. She said the \$1,000 more could perhaps go to the map, for which we just got a \$10,000 estimate. She added those plans are still underway. Bangor Savings has given us \$500, and from Guini Ridge Farm, Green Meadow Farm, Two Rock Ridge Farm, Norris Farm, Brae Maple Farm, and Beneva Farm - \$550 sponsoring the sheep show. Lorna Hills donated \$1,100 for the t-shirts, but the Chamber decided they're doing the t-shirts, so we have that funding for another activity.

7. Budget:

Tracy said she and Argy put together a spitball list of items. Keith confirmed last year's \$10,000 from the town is on there, which Argy said must be spent by July 1. She said we requested another \$10,000 from the town but no idea if we'll get it. Tracy said the hard part was not knowing we were going to have to pay \$2,100 for the fairgrounds, \$2,500 for bus transportation, etc.

Martha asked what the requested \$10,000 would be used for, since it won't come in until after the activities. Argy said for the film that's being made, the map, fairgrounds rental, bus rental. Marth confirmed they could all be paid after July 1 and said the other question will be what we used the other \$10,000 for. Argy added she applied for that Maine Humanities grant of \$4,000 which would pay for the film, but we don't know about that yet; any day we should learn.

Discussion followed. In answer to Martha, Argy explained the figure of \$10,000 for the map: a two-sided plan, one side with the map and the other with content on what it represents and the history in our town.

Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – March 18, 2024

Argy said the map was done in '68, updated in '82, and for it to have lasted this long is a miracle. This is a great time and opportunity, to bite the bullet and do it. She said the artist is a sign painter. Andy White is a fabricator. Frank from the historical society and she are working on content for the other side. She added the legs will be granite to complement the Civil War monument; we may get them donated. We will proposed that the map be moved back as well. In answer to Martha, Argy said they are working on a breakdown of costs. Argy mentioned approval of the select board is required and noted that's just one step.

In answer to Argy, Martha said at tomorrow night's select board meeting she should have that breakdown handy so they have it if they want it. They'll want to know what we've used the \$10,000 for so far or the plan, and what the additional \$10,000 is for. Argy said she put together 3 different drafts of what the \$10,000 that we have could be used for – all the things not sponsored – but with donations, the ground is shifting. She said at this point all we know about this year's \$10,000 is walkie talkies, Charlie and Penny Crockett film for that weekend up to \$1,000, parade, dumpster \$375 and trash bags, and advertising. Martha said any infrastructure-type expenses are good to include.

8. Three-Day Schedule:

Committee members reviewed a hard copy of the schedule.

Ashley said re: kids' activities, Jane, Stuart, and she were thinking of adding “these are the types of activities we're going to have.” Tracy said get it to her by Wednesday.

Ruth Ann said Family Café at the fairgrounds will be open all three days. Four Corner is out.

Tracy confirmed with Ruth Ann that the same food vendors are committed on Sunday (the same all three days)w. Ruth Ann said hours will be on the Common Friday 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday noon to 3:00 p.m., and Sunday noon to 3:00 p.m.; and Sunday on the fairgrounds 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Reggie's and Family Café only.

Martha asked to refer to the pie social as the Chamber Pie Social or the Union Area Chamber Pie Social.

Pat brought up the parade. Jesse Thompson (EMS/Fire Chief) said his understanding was the parade would start here (town office), go up to the Common, and down 235. He said in years past the Memorial Day parade has always gone from here to the Common, hooked a right and back up to Four Corners; fire apparatus turns around and comes back. Founders Day has always gone to the main entrance of the fair due to safety concerns. He said it's easier to shut down 235 for costs for the fire department right at the post office and just have everyone go down all of Common Road right to the fairgrounds, because you have a big area to pull off. If you have fire apparatus from us and surrounding towns,

Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – March 18, 2024

we just keep going back up to 17. Going down 235 though we're going to have to shut that down, to Ayer Hill Ruth Ann confirmed.

Jesse added no one had communicated him with a request for shutting down traffic yet. Argy said they were told they had to communicate with the state. Jesse said right but if they want him to be traffic control, as in years past, he needs to know what the request is. Argy said they weren't familiar with that but thrilled to see him here. Jesse said they are a small department and personnel, and they typically do a little bit of it all (shutting down roads, last in line, etc.).

Discussion followed. Norma suggested talking to Paul Smeltzer about Waldoboro's parade which shut down 220 and mentioned the high school's post-covid parade coming down Routes 131, 90, and 1.

Argy summarized this is a really important piece that needs to be worked out. She reiterated she's really glad Jesse was here. She asked that Jesse, Ruth Ann, maybe Pat, and anyone who'd like to be in on that conversation figure it out. Martha mentioned Bill Packard. Argy said Bill is working on logistics but unable to attend meetings at this time. Ruth Ann will contact him. Jesse said Ruth Ann can get hold of him via email.

9. Softball:

Pat said softball will be Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parks and Rec will take care of scheduling, sign ups, etc. Argy said let them know if there's something to communicate to the general public. Pat said he'll meet up with his team; they are roughly thinking half adults, half kids on a team – a fun event.

Argy mentioned kickball instead of softball– any age could play, parents would be more apt to play with their kids. Pat said good idea, and they can get kickballs. He added the risk of getting hurt is lower and kickball might be more appropriate for families.

Motion to change softball to kickball by: Keith Siegel
2nd by: Ashley Brown
7-0

10. Updates:

Martha will have information on volunteers/online system for the April 1 meeting. She ordered more hats, so we should have those by Easter Sunday breakfast. Argy said the trifold and wooden nickels arrived. She asked that when Martha is finished they go upstairs in the town office; she has to check with Jay.

Re: t-shirts, Martha said she is doing the online thing with Adventure Advertising and noted the online store won't cost anything.

Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – March 18, 2024

Re: road signs, she gave them prices for 24”x18” with stakes. She got a banner price of \$5/SF. Argy said whoever takes the lead will have to do a comparison between Martha’s and Rachael’s prices.

Ruth Ann said she got the Ashland unicyclists. She will bring the list of 27 (28 with blueberry queen) parade participants to the next meeting. She said she has a lot of groups, so it will be longer – 18 tractors, 18 cars, etc. In answer to Keith, she said Bob Oxtan took care of mutual aid, and she will talk with Jesse.

Re: parade marshal, Argy said they will have a list at the next meeting to make a decision which will then go to the select board.

Sonja said she talked with Jeff Sukeforth who wanted to know if we wanted the American Legion involved in the parade. She said yes. Ruth Ann said sure and added we have a vet float that Greg Grotton is coordinating. Sonja and Ruth Ann will get in touch re: getting American Legion in the loop. Sonja will ask about the Baptist church.

Ruth Ann said she chatted with the Nazarene church. Argy confirmed we’re waiting to hear about the church in Hope.

Tracy brought up a press release inviting the public (to participate in the parade). Ruth Ann said we’re getting to the point of not wanting a two-hour parade and had concerns about just a general invitation, as we wanted it to be apolitical. Tracy said the Lobster Festival has a form that says nothing political. Ruth Ann said if we do three minutes between letting everyone go, we’re at 81 minutes already. Martha mentioned the historical society. Tracy said not enough people power; they’ll be on the Common.

Keith said Tracy and he met with the president of Steel-Pro at the time capsule and discussed what the needs were. He originally envisioned a circular hollow tube where you could seal both ends, but when told the original was a child’s casket so a rectangular one would be more appropriate, he said absolutely no problem. He is really excited to have Steel-Pro be a part of this. They’re going to fabricate a stainless steel enclosure that will be weather tight to withstand 50 years underground, but also be built in a way that should be easy to open up 50 years from now.

Keith also said Argy and he met with Brian from Sterlington, who took all the info and is very interested. He will talk it over with his wife Jillian who does more of that community-type thing. We expect some support/sponsorship from Sterlington Bake House and Public House.

He added he is struggling with press releases. Argy confirmed photos can be used from Union Elementary, as Scott White has said everybody has permission. Argy said Cindy is interested in helping with that. Cindy and Keith will connect.

Ashley said she met with Jane and Stuart. They have come up with a rough structure of what they’re going to be doing for kids’ activities. She’s waiting to hear back from them

Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – March 18, 2024

and will reach out tomorrow. They wanted to know if they had a budget for supplies. They would like to reach out to the middle or high school for volunteers and would like to do a meal incentive re: chicken barbecue on Saturday. She has not reached out to Anna but will. She estimated they would need four volunteers, just for Saturday.

Martha brought up Ruckus Donuts. Argy said they could not find any old donut recipes with yeast for a Sestercentennial donut.

Argy suggested seeing if food trucks would be willing to provide lunch for student volunteers, as they aren't paying like they normally do when they set up. Ruth Ann will talk to Reggie. Ashley estimated three to five volunteers overseeing children at play.

Cindy said she reached out to NHS and was talking with Anna Webber.

Tracy said she emailed images of the commemorative coin. She said she asked for quotes on additional keychains, so the coin can be ordered as a keychain as well.

She said the program is well underway. The booklet *The Next 50 Years* – with a subcommittee in place at the historical society – has a May 15 deadline to be edited, then hopefully off to the printer's at the beginning of June.

She also said the walking committee has started putting together the map. They will start at the Old Town House, come down around the Common, come down just below the apartment complex, cross the road, come back up, talk about the other important land in the region of the Common, come up in front of Common House of Pizza up onto the Common, end at the monument time capsule, and disperse. She added the deadline for everything is Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Argy said re: beard contest she heard from Erica that the poster is mostly done. Rock City is a sponsor, and Erica is also approaching Viking.

She also said Camden National Bank said no to funding Enter the Haggis, so Buddy is regrouping and moving ahead as planned.

Sonja told Ben she needed to talk to him but hasn't yet. She is working on the bus.

Martha asked everyone who has activities going on to let her know what they need for volunteers – what activity, what time span, how many – by next meeting April 1.

Argy said hopefully we will hear about the raffle, Corporal Cobb update, parade marshal, draft of proclamation to send to the governor, and we have to talk about the birthday cake which isn't budgeted. She said we need to know ASAP anything else not in the budget.

11. Other: None.

Sestercentennial Committee Minutes – March 18, 2024

12. Next meeting: April 1, 6:00 p.m.

Topics to include: proclamation, raffle, update from Corporal Cobb.

13. Adjourn:

Motion by: Tracy Weed

2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash

7-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary